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IRVINE & RAVENNA, KENTUCKY 40336

16 PAGES

Head-on collision kills 1, injures 4



Amelia Farmer and Wesley Phillips attended Prom together. They were both passengers in a vehicle struck head-on last Wednesday on Spout Springs Road. At press-time, these two and Amelia's brother, Andrew remained hospitalized at UK Medical Center.

A Richmond man lost his life in a head-on collision on KY 82, also known as Spout Springs Road, last Wednesday just before noon.

This was Estill County's first traffic fatality for 2019.

The wreck also injured three teens and a young driver from Estill County. Their destination was to the Red River Gorge.

The state police report states that Hager K. Rice, 56, was driving a 1999 Toyota Corolla west on Spout Springs Road.

KSP says that Rice lost control of his vehicle in the area of the Twin Creek Road

and Tramell Lane entrances. It crossed the center line and collided head-on with a 2016 Ford Fusion driven by Haley Puckett, 20, of Irvine.

The roadway was wet from rain at the time of the collision.

Rice sustained fatal injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene by the Estill County Coroner.

Puckett and her three passengers were transported to Marcum & Wallace Memorial Hospital.

All of the young people were hospitalized. A couple of helicopters were called in to airlift the victims to UK

Medical Center.

Puckett has since been released from the hospital. The others remain, at press time, at UK Medical Center, but their conditions have greatly improved.

They were identified as a brother and sister, Andrew and Amelia Farmer, and Wesley Phillips.

Friends of the young ones held a prayer meeting in the UK Hospital waiting room on the evening of the wreck.

Family and friends are receiving updates on the teens' conditions via Facebook. The victims received broken bones and have had multiple

surgeries since the collision.

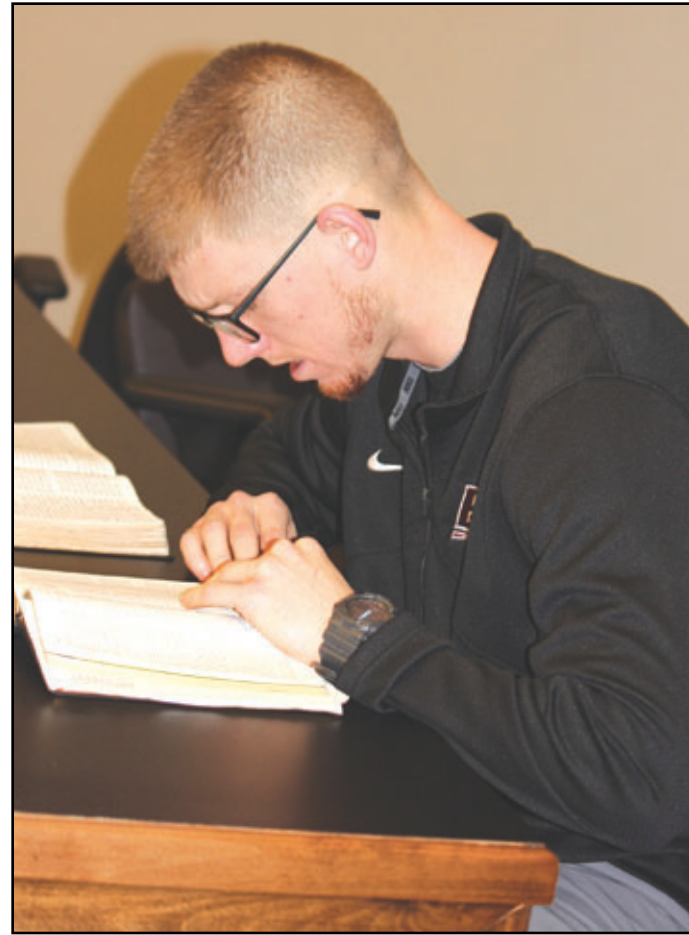
This fatal wreck was similar to one in the same stretch of road on March 28, 2018. That wreck claimed the life of 60 year old Brenda Puckett of Estill County. B. Puckett's vehicle was hit head-on by a driver from Prestonsburg traveling west.

Amelia Farmer had just graduated from Estill County High School on May 31. She received four scholarships, including the ECU Presidential Scholarship, and an award.

The collision is being investigated by KSP Trooper Toney Allen.



Hayley Puckett was driving her vehicle when it was struck head-on by another vehicle last Wednesday morning. She has been released from the hospital. She and her friends were traveling to Red River Gorge.



Andrew Farmer was one of the four injured in the collision. Above, Andrew participated in a Bible reading marathon at Irvine City Hall on New Year's Day.

Feds pick up Thor from 3 Forks Regional Jail

On Monday, federal authorities picked up Torstein Torsteinson, 35, of the Joseph Proctor Bypass, Irvine from the Three Forks Regional Jail in Beattyville.

Torsteinson, aka Thor, has been incarcerated in the jail since his arrest in early April.

Thor was indicted May 24 by the Estill County Grand Jury on two charges: prohibited use of an electronic communication system to procure a minor; sex offenses and tampering with physical evidences.

The indictment states that around Sept. 1, Thor solicited a minor for sexual activity over an electronic device. He then allegedly deleted messages from his cell phone in order to conceal evidence, which he believed was to be used in an official proceeding.

Both charges are Class D felonies, punishable by one to five years in prison on each count.

KSP Trooper Austin Brashear investigated the case.

It is not known why federal authorities picked up Thor. When this investigation began, state police say they were investigating if Thor was in the United States illegally. He is from Honduras.

If he is charged in this same crime by federal authorities, local charges will be dismissed.



Torstein Torsteinson
Photo courtesy of 3 Forks Jail

Ravenna Council honors graduates Replacing a council member who resigned was tabled

by CATHY DAWES
Tribune Staffwriter

The Ravenna Council met on Monday night and began by honoring graduates from the Estill County High School that live in the city with gifts and a cake. Next on the agenda was the financial report which was discussed at great length.

Councilmember Valerie Flinchum questioned why office supplies and gas costs had significantly increased in the past couple of months.

City Clerk Ashley Moore said that the office supplies could have been to an annual payment that was due for the office program that she uses called Quickbooks. She said that payment is made each year in May and is around \$600.

Police Chief Ken White stated that the increase in fuel could be due to the fact that he has been filling up both cruisers.

Flinchum asked if the council members could have

a breakdown of each category on the financial report each month and to have that available to them to review before the meeting each month.

Moore replied that it would not be a problem and she would get that ready each month and would also prepare a breakdown of expenses that Flinchum could pick up on Wednesday.

Moore also informed the council that Municipal Road Aid funds would be available to the city as soon as the IRS was finished reviewing the documents that she had sent in.

She said that the previous city clerk had not paid in federal taxes and so they were waiting to find out how much the city owed and if there would be any penalties.

The council voted to increase the sanitation fees for residents by \$1.50 each month. Councilwoman Tammy Howell said that she hated to raise the rates at all but knew it had to be done. Councilwoman Beverly Thompson agreed.

The council approved for \$3,500 to be withdrawn from the Charlie Van Huss account to replace a portion of fencing at the park.

Mayor Estine Tipton said that part of the fence had already been replaced. She worried about small children running out into traffic and would like to get the chain link fence put up as soon as possible. The materials will be purchased at Meade's Do It Center and the work will be completed by city employee, Ricky Williams.

Councilmember Tammy Howell said they were hoping to get a grant for the park to add some nice features to it. She said they had discussed a butterfly garden, tennis courts, renovating the basketball courts, and a fitness area for elderly people.

Mayor Tipton said she was waiting to hear back about the purchase of some of the land at the park as well as getting an updated lease between the city and CSX for the remainder of the park that the city doesn't currently own.

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Obituaries

- Wavlene Dunaway, 82
- Jewel Hall, 86
- Mark Hall, 51
- Hager Rice, 56
- Raymond Rogers, 85

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New Obits at
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The public is invited to a ground breaking ceremony for the Estill County Area Technology Center on Friday, June 14 at 2 p.m. It will be held at 495 Engineer Drive. The photo is the architect drawing of the ATC.